Police Will Probe Case of Alleged Bertrand Use

Officer's Statement Brings Giarrusso Action

Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso said Saturday that he has written an inter-office directive asking for an investigation surrounding the revelation by Ptn. Aloysius Habighorst that Clay Shaw once allegedly admitted he used the alias "Clay Bertrand."

In the memorandum, Giarrusso asked Assistant Chief William P. Stevens to investigate these points:

—If Ptn. Habighorst gave information to the district attorney's office, as he claimed in two television interviews Friday, why didn't the police department receive a copy of the statement?

—If Ptn. Habighorst made three copies of the report, as he noted on television, under what authority was he allowed to keep one for his personal file?

Giarrusso emphasized that the police department has no objections to statements being given to the district attorney's office by policemen, but he feels the department is entitled to have a copy of the statement.

Supt. Giarrusso, contacted Saturday afternoon, said he was having the arrest card brought to his office so that he can see what it contains. Asked if a Times-Picayune reporter can come to see it, Giarrusso said, "Anything that is evidence I am not empowered to release, and I assume this will be used as evidence."

Asked if Habighorst can possibly be arrested himself for violations regarding the incident, Supt. Giarrusso answered, "I don't know what the investigation will disclose. We will make the details of it public. We will take whatever appropriate action is called for."

Shaw was arrested March 1, 1967, and was booked with conspiracy to murder the late President John F. Kennedy. Habighorst told TV newsmen it was while Shaw was at police headquarters being booked that he, then handling the booking, asked whether Staw ever used an alias. Habighorst showed on TV what he alleged to be his personal copy of the arrest record with the name "Clay Bertrand" on it.

Exhaustive checks of police records by newsmen not long after Shaw was booked failed to reveal any mention of the name "Clay Bertrand."

One of Shaw's attorney's, Edward F. Wegmann, immediately issued a statement calling Habighorst's claim "an absolute lie."